

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 AID-05 OMB-01 H-02 /055 R

DRAFTED BY EA/P:MSMITH:PP

APPROVED BY EA:WHGLESTEEN

S/PRS:RFUNSETH

EA/PHL:ASWIFT

----- 113855

P R 292330Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

INFO CINCPAC HI

CINCPACREPPHIL RP

13TH AF RP

JCS

DOD

JUSMAG RP

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 125423

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MAAR, MASS, PFOR

SUBJECT: MAP FOR GOP

REFERENCE: MANILA 7372

1. AGREE THAT PUBLIC COMMENT ON OUR MILITARY PRESENCE AND OTHER SENSITIVE ISSUES SHOULD BE KEPT TO MINIMUM. GUIDANCE PROVIDED SPOKESMAN BY EA WAS DRAFTED WITH THIS IN MIND. BECAUSE OF GENERAL PRESS INTEREST HERE IN US-PHILIPPINES MILITARY RELATIONSHIP--STIMULATED BY RECENT STATEMENTS TO PRESS IN MANILA ON THIS SUBJECT BY GOP OFFICIALS--SPOKESMAN IN RESPONDING TO QUESTION ABOUT MILITARY GRANT ASSISTANCE STATED THAT WE HAVE HAD INFORMAL TALKS WITH GOP ABOUT THE LEVEL OF OUR MILITARY PRESENCE--THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO FORMAL NEGOTIATING STRUCTURE ESTABLISHED--AND THAT AMB. SULLIVAN WAS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE MANILA MAY 27 FOR HOME LEAVE, ARRIVING IN WASHINGTON FOR CONSULTATIONS AROUND JULY 1. WE  
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HAVE NOT SEEN ANY PRESS COVERAGE OF THIS ITEM HERE AND

WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY REPORTING LOCAL PRESS PLAY, IF ANY.

2. FOLLOWING ARE THE PRESS GUIDANCE PAPERS PREPARED FOR TODAY'S (5/29) BRIEFING. NO QUESTIONS WERE RAISED BUT DEPARTMENT PREPARED TO RESPOND, IF ASKED. EMBASSY MAY USE THIS GUIDANCE IF NEEDED.

3. Q. WHERE DO WE STAND ON BASE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PHILIPPINES?

A. THE PHILIPPINES GOVERNMENT HAS INDICATED THAT IT IS REASSESSING ITS OWN VIEWS ON THE FUTURE OF OUR BASES THERE AND WILL WANT AT SOME POINT TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE WITH US. WE HAVE TOLD THEM OFFICIALLY AND PUBLICLY, THAT AS HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE CASE IN THE PAST, WE ARE PREPARED TO ENTER INTO FORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM. THUS FAR, THERE HAVE BEEN NO FORMAL DISCUSSIONS AND WE HAVE NO SCHEDULE FOR ANY TALKS. AS I SAID YESTERDAY, AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN IS EXPECTED HERE AFTER SOME HOME LEAVE ON JULY 1.

Q. HOW ABOUT OUR MUTUAL SECURITY TREATY WITH THE PHILIPPINES? IS THIS TOO, A MATTER FOR NEGOTIATION? ROMULO SAYS THE TREATY MEANS THE PHILIPPINES WILL HAVE TO HELP DEFEND THE US IN THE EVENT OF ATTACK. ANY COMMENT?

A. GOP OFFICIALS HAVE TALKED IN TERMS OF OUR ENTIRE SECURITY RELATIONSHIP AND WE ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS ANY OR ALL ASPECTS OF THIS RELATIONSHIP WITH THEM.

Q. WHAT IS THE STATUS OF OUR MILITARY AID PROGRAM IN THE PHILIPPINES? ARE WE PLANNING TO PHASE IT OUT IN 1978 AS REPORTED FROM MANILA YESTERDAY?

A. THERE HAS BEEN NO TALK OF PHASING OUT THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO THE PHILIPPINES. A PRESS REPORT FROM MANILA YESTERDAY APPARENTLY STEMS FROM A REPLAY OF US CONGRESSIONAL DEBATE OVER THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1974 AND A COMPROMISE "SENSE OF THE CONGRESS" STATEMENT IN THE CONFERENCE REPORT (DEC 1974)  
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WHICH CALLS FOR A GENERAL RE-EXAMINATION OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WITH A VIEW TO REDUCING AND TERMINATING ALL OF SUCH PROGRAMS AS SOON AS FEASIBLE. THE PHILIPPINES WAS NOT SINGLED OUT IN THIS REPORT.

Q. HOW MUCH MILITARY ASSISTANCE ARE WE GIVING TO THE PHILIPPINES THIS YEAR AND HOW MUCH ARE WE PLANNING NEXT YEAR?

A. IN FISCAL YEAR 1975, THE PHILIPPINES HAS BEEN  
ALLOCATED 21 MIL DOLS IN GRANT ASSISTANCE WHICH  
INCLUDES TRAINING, MATERIEL AND SUPPLY OPERATIONS  
COSTS. THE PHILIPPINES WILL ALSO RECEIVE 7 MIL DOLS  
IN FOREIGN MILITARY SALES CREDITS. THE FIGURES FOR  
NEXT YEAR ARE NOT AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME. INGERSOLL

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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